

1 May 1983

Operations

ERRANT LAUNCH/SPACE EVENT REPORTING

This regulation defines the responsibilities of the Commander in Chief, Aerospace Defense Command (CINCAD) under the Agreement on Measures to Reduce the Risk of the Outbreak of Nuclear War Between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as specified in JCS Memo SM-169-83. It applies to the Cheyenne Mountain Complex (CMC) and other agencies concerned with errant launch/space event reporting.

1. **General.** The Launch Correlation Unit (LCU) was established to fulfill CINCAD's responsibilities. The LCU collects, consolidates, and provides the National Military Command Center (NMCC) information about all scheduled military and civilian space and missile launches, satellite decays, and breakups. It assesses and reports to the NMCC, on a near real-time basis, the possibility of an errant missile launch or space event appearing as a threat to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The LCU will coordinate (through the Missile Warning Center and the Space Defense Operations Center (SPADOC) Computation Center (SCC)) warning and surveillance sensor activities to obtain information on domestic missile launches or space events. The SCC Space Surveillance Controller (SCC/SSC) will determine if space events or incidents are reportable and take appropriate action. The SSC will provide additional assistance as required by the LCU during a domestic launch or space event.

2. Terms:

a. **Launch Correlation Unit Action Officer (LCUAO).** An LCU-trained staff officer assigned to the Directorate of Mission Warning Operations (J3M).

b. **Launch Correlation Unit Duty Officer (LCUDO).** A function of the Missile Warning Officer/Events Verification Officer (MWO/EVO) that deals with domestic launch activities. The LCUDO is not a separate position, but an integral part of MWO/EVO duties.

c. **Domestic Launch.** A missile or space launch originating in the US (including Alaska and Hawaii) or from a US platform.

d. **Foreign Launch.** A missile or space launch which is not domestic.

e. **Cooperative Launch.** A foreign launch which satisfies all of the following criteria:

- (1) The booster or payload is supplied by the US.

(2) The agencies involved provide (as a minimum) the following prelaunch data to the LCU:

(a) Launch time.

(b) Launch site location, preferably latitude and longitude.

(c) Launch type, missile or earth satellite vehicle (ESV).

(d) Maximum range, if a missile.

(3) A telephone conference between the Range Control Officer (RCO) and the LCUDO must be feasible. The RCO must be able to inform the LCUDO if the launch is proceeding as planned. This may also be done by a conference relayed through the Mission Operations Director (MOD) at the Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland.

f. **Nominal Vehicle.** A launch vehicle which achieves its planned parameters.

g. **Vacuum Impact Point.** An impact prediction that has not been corrected for atmospheric drag, earth rotation, or other influencing factors.

h. **Non-nominal Vehicle.** A launch vehicle which fails to achieve its planned parameters, but its predicted vacuum impact point remains within range destruct lines.

i. **Errant Launch.** A launch vehicle which fails to achieve its planned parameters, can't be confirmed destroyed, and its predicted vacuum impact point can reasonably be assumed to be outside range destruct lines.

j. **Reportable Event.** A domestic/cooperative missile or satellite vehicle which may impact, overfly, or come within 100 nautical miles of the USSR and which might appear as a threat vehicle to the Soviet Union.

k. **Launch Types:**

- (1) **Type I.** A domestic or cooperative launch which could become a reportable event.

Supersedes N/A/AR 55-103, 5 June 1981. (For summary of changes, see page 3.)

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(2) Type 2. A domestic or cooperative launch, other than Type 1, whose detection by NORAD sensors is expected.

(3) Type 3. A domestic or cooperative launch, other than Type 1, whose detection by NORAD sensors is not expected, but possible.

(4) Type 4. A domestic or cooperative launch, other than Type 1, whose detection by NORAD sensors is not expected.

3. Tasks and Responsibilities:

a. The Director, Missile Warning Operations (J3M), will make sure:

(1) MWO/EVO personnel are qualified to perform duties in support of the LCU.

(2) During Types 1, 2, and 3 launches a countdown conference is established with the LCUDO, Command Director (CD), NMCC, test range, and other agencies, as necessary.

b. The test ranges, IAW appropriate agreements, will:

(1) Provide launch schedule updates weekly for Types 1, 2, and 3 launches.

(2) Participate in the countdown conference with the LCUDO and other users for Types 1, 2, and 3 launches.

(3) Provide lift-off time not later than 60 minutes after lift-off.

(4) Provide real-time impact predictions, and/or available trajectory data for errant launches.

(5) Provide lists of code words and meanings, if applicable.

c. The SCC/SSC will:

(1) Determine reportability for all objects which fail to achieve a planned orbit, objects already in orbit which decay or that are predicted to decay, deorbits, and satellite breakups. If these objects are reportable, notify the LCUDO and CD and pass available information to NMCC via an OPREP-3 PINNACLE report (significant space event).

(2) Task sensors to provide data on reportable events.

(3) Provide orbital look angles to appropriate sensors for space events/incidents and Types 1 and 2 launches.

(4) Provide postlaunch input for the Commander's daily briefing on reportable space events.

d. The LCUAO will:

(1) Perform administrative and operational staff support duties.

(2) Categorize launches as Type 1, 2, 3, or 4.

(3) Assemble and distribute weekly schedules of Types 1 and 2 launches forecast to occur during the following 30 days. As more information becomes available, advise the users as soon as possible. Include information on Type 3 launches forecast to occur during the following 7 days.

(4) For a no-notice or short-notice launch, assist the LCUDO in determining launch type.

(5) Coordinate LCU activities with the CD and SSC as necessary.

(6) Establish standard operating procedures governing activities directed by this regulation.

e. The LCUDO will:

(1) Establish a prelaunch conference loop for all Types 1, 2, and 3 launches.

(2) For Type 4 launches, verify status of the launch and notify the CD. No other actions are required for Type 4 launches unless requested by the launch agency, a sensor, or higher headquarters.

(3) Arrange for support from the launch agency and appropriate sensors.

(4) Coordinate with the SCC to determine if and when Early Orbit Determination (EODET) support is required. Regulate BMEWS tracking radars in accordance with N/AR 55-20 for preventive maintenance.

(5) Obtain information from the SSC on all reportable space events or incidents. Ensure the SSC has submitted appropriate reports to the NMCC.

(6) Obtain new trajectory data or predicted impact points from the launch facility on errant launches. Determine reportability and pass all information, regardless of reportability, to the NMCC via verbal and follow-up OPREP-3 PINNACLE reports. Make sure the NMCC Surveillance Officer receives all pertinent information.

(7) Determine on a domestic launch, for which no prelaunch data was received, if it is a Type 1, 2, or 3. If the launch is Type 1, 2, or 3, verbally notify the MWO, CD, and NMCC as far in advance as possible of scheduled lift-off.

(8) Notify addressees of changes to launch schedules.

4. Supplements. This regulation will not be supplemented without approval of the OPR.

OFFICIAL

JAMES V. HARTINGER
General, USAF
Commander in Chief

JAMES H. RIX
Colonel, USAF
Director of Administration

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Changes titles and office symbols to correspond to the headquarters reorganization. Updates agency tasks. Revises distribution.

DISTRIBUTION: X

NORAD/ADCOM:

J3FC	10	J3V	1
J3J	1	J3B	1
J3M	3	DAPL	1
J3Z	1	DAP	2
J3YS	1	DAPD (stock)	20
J3FW	1		
J3F	1		
J3T	1		

2CS/DO, Buckley ANG Base CO 80010	3
20MWS/DO/DOS (1 cy ea), Eglin AFB FL 32542	2
Det 1, 20MWS/DOF, MacDill AFB FL 33608	1
1STRAD/DOX, Vandenberg AFB CA 93437	1
6MWS/DO, Otis AFB MA 02542	1
7MWS/DO, Beale AFB CA 95903	1
12MWG/DO, APO New York 09023	1
13MWG/DO, APO Seattle 98704	1
16SURS/DO, APO Seattle 98736	1
5DSCS/DO, APO San Francisco 96287	1
19SURS/DO, APO New York 09294	1

OTHER AGENCIES:

HQ SAC, Offutt AFB NE 68113 (SACOS/DOCSS-1, DOCW-1, NEACP-1)	3
3422 SCHS/TTMK, Lowry AFB CO 80230	1
Det 2, 3390th Tech Trng Gp (ATC), Peterson AFB CO 80914	1
ESMC/ROS, Patrick AFB FL 32925	1
ESMC/SEO, Patrick AFB FL 32925	1
ESMC/ROPR, Patrick AFB FL 32925	1
HQ SAMTO/DO, Vandenberg AFB CA 93437	1
OJCS/J36 CCD, Washington DC 20301	1
NMCC/SURV (EA Division), Washington DC 20301	1
AUL/SE-7575, Maxwell AFB AL 36112	1
CINCPAC/J32/J3, Camp H.M. Smith HI 96861	1
CINCAN2/J3, Norfolk VA 23510	1

WSMC/ROR, Vandenberg AFB CA 93437 1
 Pacific Missile Range/Code 3210, Pt Mugu CA 90341 1
 US Army Field Office, P.O. Box 1656, Vandenberg AFB CA 93437 1
 Director, National Range Operations, White Sands Missile Range NM 88002 1
 Goddard Space Flight Center/OPS Center Br. Code 512, Greenbelt MD 20771 1
 Kwajalein Missile Range (BMDSC-RK), Box 26, APO San Francisco 96555 1
 Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska, C.T. Elvey Bldg. 903 Koyukuk Ave North, Fairbanks AK 99701 1
 ANMCC, Ft Ritchie MD 21719 1
 Sandia National Labs, Albuquerque NM 87115 1
 AF Geophysics Labs (AFSC)/LRC, Hanscom AFB MA 01731 1
 Arc Technologies, Inc., 837 2nd Ave, Redwood City CA 94063 1
 FAA Air Traffic Rules Br. AAT-220, 800 Independence Ave S.W., Washington DC 20591 1
 Cmdr (BMDSC), P.O. Box 1500, Huntsville AL 35807 1
 National Defence HQ (DGOPS-5) (NDOC) (DOAT), Dept of National Defence, Ottawa ON, Canada K1A 0K2 3
 Canadian Centre for Space Science, National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa ON, Canada K1A 0K2 2
 1st Space Wing, Peterson AFB CO 80914 1